



Travis County Fire Marshal's Office

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Injury-causing gas explosion ruled accidental by Fire Marshal's Office

Travis County Fire Marshal's Office investigators have determined that the cause of an explosion that led to a structure fire and injured two gas company workers last week in Manor was accidental. Evidence at the scene and interviews by investigators have shown that the gas riser that feeds gas directly into the house was damaged by the resident of the home, leading to a buildup of gas in the home's laundry room.

The explosion occurred at 11504 Briarcreek Loop on Thursday, December 27, after a house resident called Texas Community Propane to report that they smelled gas. The workers arrived and were inspecting the exterior gas riser to the house when the explosion occurred. Gas within the laundry room exploded and returned to its source, the damaged riser, where the gas company employees were working.

The Fire Marshal's Office wants to ensure residents of the neighborhood, which is serviced by Texas Community Propane, that they should not be concerned that their gas service is faulty and may cause subsequent explosions or leaks.

All Travis County residents should allow only licensed gas installation experts to install gas lines within their homes and buildings. Residents should under no circumstances use propane cylinders inside buildings for heat, cooking, providing hot water or any other purpose. Gas cylinders are explosive and should not be used inside buildings. If the smell of gas is noted inside a residence, the occupants should leave the residence immediately, without turning off any switches or appliances, and notify the gas company and local fire department from another location.

The Fire Marshal's Office does not anticipate filing any charges regarding this gas explosion.

(2013-01)

Submitted by: Travis County Emergency Services Public Information Officer Lisa Block, 512-854-7954.